

FUEL CELL END PLATE ASSEMBLY

5

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Fuel cell systems incorporate end plate assemblies used to compress the fuel cell stack and/or to collect current from the fuel cell stack. A fuel cell system 10 includes a fuel cell stack having fuel cells stacked in a predetermined stacking direction. Multi-function or multi-region compression end plate assemblies are disposed at the ends of a fuel cell stack. A multi-region compression end plate assembly involves compression mechanisms configured to preferentially compress separate areas of the fuel cell stack. A multi-function end plate 15 assembly employs a current collector passing through an end plate to collect current from the fuel cell stack. The current collector may be used to preferentially compress a region of the fuel cell stack.